

OUTLOOK FOR 2009

2009 promises to be yet another busy year at the Melbourne Institute. Some examples of what is in store follow.

- The Melbourne Institute will host an invitation-only academic conference in mid-June on tax reform at the request of the Review of Australia's Tax System, headed by Dr Ken Henry, Secretary to the Treasury.
- The sixth Economic and Social Outlook Conference, which will again be co-hosted by *The Australian*, is planned for November. A major theme will be the implications of the global economic and financial crisis for a range of economic and social policies.
- The 2009 HILDA Survey Research Conference will be held on 16–17 July 2009, at the University of Melbourne. The conference will again provide a forum for the discussion of research based on the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey.
- The ninth wave of the HILDA Survey will be conducted, which will include a health module for the first time. It will also be the first time that the fieldwork is conducted by Roy Morgan Research.
- Work will continue under the Social Policy Research Services contract managed by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. This will be the last full year of funding under the current contract. Arrangements to apply in respect of future years will depend on decisions yet to be taken by the government.
- The first results of the survey Medicine in Australia: Balancing Employment and Life (MABEL) will be published in early 2009. Wave 2 of the survey goes out in June.
- Professorial Research Fellow Tony Scott will become the Director of Research of the new National Health Workforce Research Partnership. Funded by the National Health Workforce Taskforce for \$3m over three years, this is a collaboration with the Australian Health Workforce Institute and PricewaterhouseCoopers. It will address national health workforce planning and policy issues.
- In collaboration with the Brotherhood of St Laurence, the Melbourne Institute aims to develop new measures of poverty and social exclusion for Australia. This work is consistent with the long-standing poverty focus of the Melbourne Institute extending back to the pioneering work of its founding Director, Professor Ronald Henderson, who developed the Henderson Poverty Line in 1966 and went on to chair the Australian Government's Commission of Inquiry into Poverty, established in 1973. The launch of the new measures is planned for November.
- The Melbourne Institute will convene a major conference on 'Commercialising Inventions' early in the year. Ten other seminars are planned throughout the year by the Industrial Economics program on topics ranging from the Australian inventors survey results, the economics of trade marks and designs, and auction markets for patents.
- The Melbourne Institute plans to deepen its capabilities in respect of education-related research in coming years.



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